

REMARKS

By way of the foregoing amendments to the claims, claims 1-28 have been amended to delete the multiple dependencies, replace the words "characterized in that" with the word "wherein", and to make minor editorial changes. No new matter has been introduced by these changes.

Early and favorable consideration with respect to this application is respectfully requested.

Should any questions arise in connection with this application, the undersigned respectfully requests that he be contacted at the number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

BURNS, DOANE, SWECKER & MATHIS, L.L.P.

Date: September 30, 2004

By: 

Teresa Starek Rea
Registration No. 30,427

P.O. Box 1404
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1404
(703) 836-6620